



Yasha ga Ike Pond

Iwaya, Minami Echizen-cho

Various legends surround Yasha ga Ike, and its environs are equally mystical as the stories that feature it. The two hour climb from start to summit brings hikers through centuries-old trees and natural wonders on the way to a view like no other...



Yasha ga Ike viewed from Mikuni ga Take

Yasha ga Ike is a pond surrounded by primeval forest, nestled on the northern face of Mikuni ga Take on the border between Fukui and Gifu Prefecture. It is famous as the setting for the Legend of the Dragon King, the *Izumikyōka*, and for rain dances in olden times. The mountain climbing season is signalled by a traditional Shinto

ritual in early June, but each season offers vastly different views that bring climbers to this hidden spot. At the base of the path up the mountain stands a 400 year-old Judas tree, and along the path a 300 year-old horse chestnut tree.

The lake itself is the only known home to the *yashagengorō*, an insect species designated as endangered by the Ministry of the Environment in 1996.



The endangered *yasha gengorō*^①



Nikkō lilies in bloom along Yasha ga Ike



Iwaya's 300 year-old horse chestnut tree



Imajō's Judas tree^②

